been lagging behind in containing population growth to manageable limits;

(2) Creation of National Population Stabilisation Fund to provide a window for canalizing monies from national voluntary sources to specifically aid projects designed to contribute to population stabilisation;

(3) Constitution of various Working Groups/Task Force to provide more focus and professional inputs for population stabilisation.

Survey on AIDS

2267. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the recent survey conducted by specialized group including experts belonging to UNAIDS and WHO revealed that the AIDS in the country is on decline;

(b) if so, the details of the survey;

(c) the effective steps his Ministry is taking to reduce the deadly disease to the minimum level; and

(d) the steps, the NACO is taking to educate the people with regard to AIDS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) As per the analysis of HIV Sentinel Surveillance data 2001, it is estimated that there are 3.97 million HIV infections in the country. The estimated number of adults living with HIV in India for 1998, 1999 and 2000 were 3.5 million, 3.7 million and 3.8 million respectively. The estimated number of added infections since the last round of surveillance is 110,000 compared with 160,000 in the previous year.

In order to prevent and control of HIV/aids, a comprehensive Programme is currently under implementation throughout the country as a Centrally sponsored scheme. The main components consist of:-

➢ Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by

identification of target populations and providing peer counselling, condom promotion, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counselling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.

- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care.

- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.

Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sectors.

Awareness campaigns are an essential component of the prevention strategies adopted in the National AIDS Control Programme Phase-II. The Information, Education & Communication (IEC) strategy in NACO is operationalised at two levels. At the national level, implementation of the IEC strategy involves political and media advocacy, social mobilization, creation of a supportive environment that reduces social stigma and discrimination for better access to services.

At the State level Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are being undertaken by the State AIDS Control Societies to respond to local priorities and communication in local languages.